IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 15 and 18 and ADD new claim 20 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision from a server connected with a client via a network to a user through said client, comprising:

judging whether said server becomes accessible by comparing an access number and a submitted access number in response to an access request from said client to said server, said access number being incremented and being issued responsive to each request to said server and being unique for said request and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;

immediately connecting said client with said server when judged accessible;

suspending said access request and displaying information of a number of accesses to said server on said client, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said unique access number for said access request and said submitted access number, when judged inaccessible;

displaying an updated said information of the number of accesses being updated at a fixed time interval on said client after displaying said information of the number of accesses; and

automatically connecting said client whose access request is suspended with said server at a time when said server becomes accessible according to a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number after displaying said information of the number of accesses.

2.   (CANCELLED)

3.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, information that shows said server is accessible is displayed on said client before access to said server.

4.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, a message indicating that said server is accessible is uttered by voice from said client before access to said server.

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server is accessible, an E-mail that indicates said server is accessible is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user before access to said server.

6.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein said fixed time interval is varied according to said information of the number of accesses.

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein said information of the number of accesses displayed on said client includes said access number and said submitted access number.

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said information of the number of accesses is displayed on said client, an estimated time of when said server becomes accessible, which is obtained according to a time varied condition of said information of the number of accesses, is displayed.

9.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising:

requesting a password input from said user before the said server becomes accessible, and allowing access of said client to said server upon the password input, regardless of said determination whether said server becomes accessible when authorizing that said input password is correct.

10.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said provided service is for commodity sales, a number of sellable goods in stock is further displayed at the time of displaying said information of the number of accesses on said client.

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11.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, information that shows the commodity sales of goods is finished is displayed on said client.

12.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, a message that indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is uttered by voice from said client.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 10, wherein when said number of sellable goods in stock becomes zero, an E-mail that indicates said commodity sales of goods is finished is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user.

14.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising:
      displaying said information of the number of accesses for said client accessing to said server upon determining that said server is inaccessible.

15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision method for service provision using a client connected with a server via a network, comprising:
      determining whether said server becomes accessible by comparing an access number and a submitted access number via said client when said client sends an access request to said server, said access number being incremented and being issued responsive to each request to said server and being unique for said request and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said server;
      immediately connecting said client with said server upon determining that said server is accessible;
      suspending said access request and displaying information of a number of accesses of said server via said client upon determining that said server is not accessible, said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicating a number of uncompleted requests according to said unique access number for said access request and said submitted access number;
      displaying an updated said information of the number of accesses via said client, where the information is updated at a fixed time interval after displaying said information of the number of accesses; and

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automatically connecting said client whose access request is suspended with said server when said server becomes accessible according to a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number after displaying said information of the number of accesses.

16.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 15, wherein said client obtains said updated information of the number of accesses displayed at said fixed time interval.

17.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A service provision method according to claim 15, wherein said client judges whether said server becomes accessible when said client is connected with said server.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision system, which includes first, second and third servers connected with a client via a network, for service provision from said third server to a user through said client, wherein:

said first server, in response to an access request from said client to said third server, immediately connects said client with said third server, when said third server becomes accessible, and connects said client to said second server when said third server does not become available; and

said second server displays said information of a number of accesses of said third server on said client, where said information of the number of accesses directly or indirectly indicates a number of uncompleted requests according to an access number <u>unique for said access request</u> and a submitted access number, when connected with said client, displays the information of the number of accesses updated at a fixed time interval after that, and automatically connects said client to said third server at the time said third server becomes accessible according to a condition that said access number becomes less than or equal to said submitted access number, and

where it is determined whether said third server becomes accessible by comparing the <u>unique</u> access number <u>for said access request</u> and the submitted access number in response to the access request from said client to said third server, said access number being incremented and being issued responsive to each request to said third server and said submitted access number being incremented responsive to each completion of providing a service from the said third server.

19.   (CANCELLED)

20.   (NEW) A method of connecting a client with a server, comprising:

temporarily suspending an access request from the client and assigning a unique access number to the access request upon determining that the server is inaccessible due to a predetermined number of current accesses to the server;

displaying a periodically updated list of the current accesses including uncompleted requests using the client upon suspending the access request, the periodically updated list being adjusted based on a load of the server; and

connecting the client with the server by removing the access request from said temporarily suspending when the server becomes accessible.